

**Amendment to the Abstract**

On page 19 of the specification, please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

High absorbency lyocell fibers are obtainable by hydrothermal treatment. The fibers can be treated with water at temperatures of at least 60 C to provide lyocell fibers that can be formed into a random fibrous plug having a mass of 2 g, a density of [4]  $0.4 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , and a diameter of 25 mm which has a GAT Absorbency (at 15 min.) of at least about 3.7 g/g.